

AMENDMENT
U.S. APP. NO. 09/203,672

REMARKS

Claims 8-14 are all the claims pending in the application.

Prior to appeal, claims 8-11 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (e) as being anticipated by Suzuki et al (USP 6,097,842). Claims 12 and 13 were objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claim 8, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

The Board of Appeals sustained the rejection of claims 8-10, but did not sustain the rejection of claims 11 and 14. In this Amendment, Applicant cancels claims 8-10, and rewrites claim 12 in independent form (claim 13 depends from claim 12, and therefore is not rewritten in independent form). Applicant also rewrites claim 14 in independent form.

In view of the above, Applicant submits that claims 11-14 are allowable and reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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